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County of Los Angeles

Office of the Sheriff
Hall of Justice
Los Angeles, California 90012

PETER J. PITCHESS, SHERIFF

October 31, 1977

Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Gentlemen:

Pursuant to Section 77 of the Los Angeles County Administrative Code, and in keeping with the spirit of fiscal conservativeness regarding the preparation of biennial reports, we are herewith submitting a brief summation of the major accomplishments of our Department since our last biennial report.

Sincerely,

PETER J. PITCHESS
SHERIFF

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LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT
BIENNIAL REPORT

FISCAL YEAR 1975-76
FISCAL YEAR 1976-77

Since our last report, the dedicated men and women of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department have continued to provide the citizens of Los Angeles County the finest law enforcement services available. This was a pledge made in our last report, and it has been accomplished in the face of "bare-bones" budgeting and despite continued growth of violent personal crimes in our society. Only through dedication, perseverance, and by constant examination of operational priorities, were the men and women of this Department able to effectively and efficiently serve the citizens of Los Angeles County.

In this report of our progress over the past few years, we shall summarize our significant accomplishments in managerial operations, cost savings, and new programs.

To assist the Sheriff in directing the Department, we established the Executive Planning Council in 1974, and in doing so, we created a managerial team which is unique to law enforcement agencies throughout the world. During the past few years of operation, this Council has assisted the Sheriff in providing the policy and direction necessary to establish Departmental goals and priorities and to realistically formulate cost-effective budget requests to carry out the mission of this Department.

The executives of this Department are keenly aware of the need to conserve our limited resources. This awareness has prevailed over the years. Thus, with cost-effectiveness uppermost in mind, we launched several new projects, and at the same time, continued existing programs which were designed to save money.

For example, a new, award winning vehicle testing and evaluation program, designed to identify annually the vehicle best suited for law enforcement use, was implemented and resulted in an annual savings of $800,000 to the taxpayers of Los Angeles County. These program savings were as a result of reduced operating costs, which included a 23% increase in fuel mileage. Also our maintenance monitoring program has resulted in a reduced vehicle "down-time" rate from 25% to 9%,

which is equivalent to placing an additional 123 vehicles in service when compared to previous periods.

Aside from actual money savings, these added benefits of increased efficiency, and improved service, as well as improved safety records combine to highlight the vehicle testing program as a sensible and cost-effective effort.

Through our own initiative, we became eligible to receive property declared excess by various agencies of the Federal Government. Since late 1975, our participation in this project has resulted in our receiving many hundreds of thousands of dollars of excess property which has had a direct impact on our Department budget.

The taxpayers also continued to reap the benefits of our reserve and law enforcement explorer program. Through the voluntary services rendered by the 1,359 members of the Sheriff's Reserve Forces Bureau and the 425 members of the Explorer Program, County government has saved millions over the past few years.

We began releasing, through the citation process, misdemeanor prisoners from the Inmate Reception Center and Sybil Brand Institute; thus the cost of housing nearly 5,000 inmates annually was avoided.

Our Scientific Services Bureau made a long overdue move to a new location. By purchasing an existing building in central Los Angeles and remodeling it rather than building a new structure, the Department saved the taxpayers over two million dollars.

While cost effectiveness was our major concern, we also realized we must have an ever changing Department to meet the changing demands of our complex society. Our philosophy is one of progress through insight and awareness - insight into the complexities of Los Angeles County and an awareness of the need for change. To continue a high quality of service, we have constantly monitored our operations and at the same time found it necessary to inaugurate programs to provide a more personal approach in our contacts with the public.

A "Client-Centered Model Approach" was started in the Altadena and Crescenta Valley Station areas. The emphasis centered on the victims of burglaries, auto thefts, rapes, robberies and felonious assaults.

Patrol Deputies not only conduct thorough crime scene investigations, lift latent fingerprints, conduct a comprehensive victim interview, but also advise victims of how to better protect themselves in the future.

A totally new, comprehensive rape investigation program, the first of its kind in the United States, was begun to lessen the trauma and indignities of rape victims during investigations and court proceedings. This will encourage more rape victims to report such crimes, and as a direct result will improve the rate of apprehension and conviction of the rapists.

We also became involved in crime prevention workshops for senior citizens. These workshops were designed to help citizens advise senior citizens how to avoid becoming victims of street crimes and bunco schemes.

We concentrated on the child abuse problem and our investigators from a specialized unit responded day and night to potential cases of abuse. We actively worked with civic organizations to create a ground-swell of public interest in this problem and its long-lasting effects.

Our Department also undertook an in-depth program to better understand and meet the law enforcement needs of nearly 500,000 deaf and hearing impaired people who reside in Los Angeles County. A task force comprised of deaf and hearing impaired persons was formed to provide the direction necessary to establish such special programs and policies as: the installation of a County-wide, non-emergent, telephone-teletype system; a special education program entitled "Law Enforcement and the Hearing Impaired"; the adapting of the Miranda warning to sign language; and the providing of wallet size "Please Help" cards to the hearing handicapped for emergency uses.

With the cooperation of the Braille Institute, we also implemented a special education program for the blind entitled "Blind Persons and the Law". This course is taught weekly at the Braille Institute by one of our deputy sheriffs. The course objective is to increase the understanding of the administration of justice by the visually handicapped.

In the field of crime suppression, we instituted multijurisdictional burglary investigative teams throughout the County. With the active participation of other police agencies, and by sharing costs and resources, we began using regional surveillance techniques and an innovative central information system, in a concerted effort to reduce the incidence of burglary.

Epidemic gang violence was also a target of Special Sheriff's Units. These units devote their total time and effort to more than one hundred mobile, heavily-armed gangs. They are staffed by deputies who know the gang members and the threat they pose to the community.

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While we strive to change attitudes and gain public confidence through public relations and crime specific programs, we have also prepared for time of disaster. Be it earthquake; fire; flood; nuclear explosion; or airplane crash. We have coordinated our efforts with other community agencies within the County to simulate disasters in order to better perform when lives and property are at stake. Our Emergency Operations Center provides the fulcrum for the coordination that is necessary to ensure that the citizens of Los Angeles County have at their service, a well trained cadre of emergency operations personnel--men and women who are available for immediate mobilization in case of local catastrophe.

While we trained for disaster, and adopted new approaches and programs, we were not too busy to grow. During the past few years we witnessed the opening of three new Sheriff's Stations, Lomita, Lynwood, and Carson, and added two contract cities, Lynwood and La Canada Flintridge.

We also formed a Reserve Forces off-road enforcement unit. The addition of six new motorcycles gives us an important added capability to conduct searches in mountainous and otherwise hostile terrain, as well as allowing us to deal with off-road vehicle drivers who are violating the law. We also acquired a Bomb Disposal Truck and Trailer, which has the capacity to detonate safely an explosive with the power of thirty-five sticks of dynamite. And finally, we added one very important member to our Department. "Greta", a two-and-one-half year old Hungarian Vizsla dog, specially trained for bomb and explosive detection, has joined our Arson/Explosive Detail. "Greta" and her handler have provided us with our very first Explosive Detection Team.

In this report, we have taken the opportunity to document some of the major accomplishments of this Department during the past few years. While these are certainly not the only accomplishments, they are the ones of which we are most proud. And because of our deep concern for fiscal expenditures, we have especially emphasized areas where we feel we have made a significant impact on the cost of county government.

In essence, this report is a printed documentary which allows us to point with pride to quality achievements by our Department over a short period of time. A documentary of a large metropolitan law enforcement agency that has as its objective: service beyond reproach.

Your support in our efforts to achieve this objective is appreciated.

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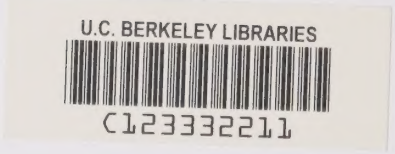
Summation



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